

IN THE CLAIMS

1-22 Cancelled

A 23. (Currently Amended) A condenser microphone comprising a diaphragm and a back-plate, wherein an inner surface of said diaphragm forms a capacitor in combination with an inner surface of said back-plate, said back-plate and/or said diaphragm is/are provided with a number of openings, and said inner surfaces of the back-plate and said inner surface of the diaphragm being provided with a hydrophobic layer, and wherein the static distance between said diaphragm and said back-plate is smaller than 10 μm .

24. (Original) A condenser microphone according to claim 23, wherein at least the inner surfaces of the diaphragm and the back-plate are made from a hydrophilic material.

25. (Original) A condenser microphone according to claim 23, wherein the smallest dimension of each of the openings does not exceed 10 μm .

26. (Original) A condenser microphone according to claim 25, wherein the smallest dimension of each of the openings does not exceed 5 μm .

27. (Original) A condenser microphone according to claim 26, wherein the smallest dimension of each of the openings does not exceed 1 μm .

28. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 27, wherein the smallest dimension of each of the openings does not exceed 0.5 μm .
29. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 26, wherein the smallest dimension of each of the openings is approximately 3 μm .
30. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 23, wherein the hydrophobic layer base material comprises an alkylsilane.
- A 31. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 23, wherein the hydrophobic layer base material comprises a perhaloalkylsilane.
32. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 23, wherein the static distance between the diaphragm and the back-plate is smaller than 5 μm .
33. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 32, wherein the static distance between the diaphragm and the back-plate is smaller than 1 μm .
34. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 33, wherein the static distance between the diaphragm and the back-plate is smaller than 0.5 μm .
35. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 34, wherein the static distance between the diaphragm and the back-plate is smaller than 0.3 μm .

36. (Original) A condenser microphone according to claim 33, wherein the static distance between the diaphragm and the back-plate is approximately $0.9\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

37. (Original) A condenser microphone according to claim 23, wherein the hydrophobic layer has a contact angle for water being between 90° and 130° .

38. (Original) A condenser microphone according to claim 37, wherein the hydrophobic layer has a contact angle for water being between 100° and 110° .

A 39. (Original) A condenser microphone according to claim 23, wherein the hydrophobic layer is stable at temperatures between -40°C and 130°C .

40. (Original) A condenser microphone according to claim 39, wherein the hydrophobic layer is stable at temperatures between -30°C and 110°C .

41. (Original) A condenser microphone according to claim 23, wherein the hydrophobic layer is stable at temperatures up to at least 400°C for at least 5 minutes.

42. (New) A condenser microphone comprising a diaphragm and a back-plate, wherein an inner surface of said diaphragm forms a capacitor in combination with an inner surface of said back-plate, said back-plate and/or said diaphragm is/are provided with a number of openings, and said inner surface of the back-plate and/or said inner surface of the diaphragm being

provided with a hydrophobic layer having a contact angle for water being larger than 90° , and wherein the static distance between said diaphragm and said back-plate is smaller than $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

43. (New) A condenser microphone comprising:

A
a diaphragm;

a back-plate, wherein an inner surface of said diaphragm forms a capacitor in combination with an inner surface of said back-plate, said back-plate and/or said diaphragm being provided with a number of openings, wherein the static distance between said diaphragm and said back-plate is smaller than $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$; and

a hydrophobic layer, provided on said inner surface of the back-plate and/or on said inner surface of the diaphragm.
